

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-12 and 14-21 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 5 and 12, are hereby amended in this response. Claims 6-7 and 13-14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the Application as originally filed, specifically, in Figs. 3-10, 12 and their accompanying description in the Specification, and paragraph [0042] of the Specification. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 12 and 14-21 were rejected as allegedly U.S. Application Publication No. 2001-0004269 to Shibata ("Shibata").

Independent claim 12 recites, *inter alia*:

"A portable electronic device comprising:
a first body through which a first rotational axis extends, **the first rotational axis being perpendicular to the first body,**
a second body connected to the first body at the point on the first body through which the first rotational axis extends, said second body

including a first portion and a second portion, and further comprising a second rotational axis, said second rotational axis being perpendicular to the first rotational axis and along one edge of the first portion of said second body ...

wherein one end of the first body along the longitudinal direction coupled to the first portion of the second body and corresponding one end of the first portion of the second body are formed into round shape, and the first axis is located at substantially the center of the rounded portion,

wherein the end of the rounded portion of the first portion of the second body has a slight protrusion and arranged thereon an operation unit that controls displaying data on the display panel,

wherein the operation unit is biased toward the center of the rotatable range, and is returned to the center when released from a finger after being pivoted slightly.” (Emphasis added)

As understood by the Applicants, Shibata relates to a portable terminal including a main unit having a microphone, a key operation unit, and a radio sending/receiving function of image and sound, a rotation axial unit having a video camera and an operation dial, an image display unit with a touch panel capable of displaying an image taken by the video camera, a received image and a screen for input operation, and a flip unit having the image display unit, a CCD camera, a speaker and an operation button. The rotation axial unit further includes an opening/shutting axis for connecting the main unit and the flip unit in a mutually rotatable way and a rotation axis for connecting the flip unit in a way of rotating the flip unit across the above rotation in the horizontal direction, and when the flip unit is opened and rotated across, it is used as a video camera with a monitor. In Shibata, the first rotational axis is parallel or along the plane of the terminal.

Applicants respectfully submit that Shibata does not teach or suggest the above identified feature of claim 12. Specifically, Shibata fails to disclose or suggest a portable electronic device comprising a first body through which a first rotational axis extends, the first rotational axis being perpendicular to the first body, a second body connected to the first body at

the point on the first body through which the first rotational axis extends, the second body including a first portion and a second portion, and further comprising a second rotational axis, the second rotational axis being perpendicular to the first rotational axis and along one edge of the first portion of the second body, as recite in claim 12. Shibata further fails to disclose wherein one end of the first body along the longitudinal direction coupled to the first portion of the second body and corresponding one end of the first portion of the second body are formed into round shape, and the first axis is located at substantially the center of the rounded portion, wherein the end of the rounded portion of the first portion of the second body has a slight protrusion and arranged thereon an operation unit that controls displaying data on the display panel, wherein the operation unit is biased toward the center of the rotatable range, and is returned to the center when released from a finger after being pivoted slightly, as recited in claim 12.

Therefore Applicants submit that claim 12 is patentable over Shibata.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2 and 8 were rejected as allegedly unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. JP 2000-196720 (hereinafter merely “the ‘720 patent”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,485,517 to Gray (hereinafter merely “Gray”).

Independent claim 1, recites *inter alia*:

“A portable display apparatus comprising ...
wherein the cover has a support portion and a display portion arranged along a longitudinal direction thereof, and
the support portion is coupled to the main body such that the support portion is pivotable around a first axis, the first axis being perpendicular to the main surface of the main body, and
the display portion has arranged thereon a display panel facing the main body, and is coupled to the support portion such that the

display portion is pivotable around a second axis, the second axis being perpendicular to the first axis,

wherein the second axis is along a longitudinal edge of the support portion, and the display portion is rotatable separate from the support portion around the second axis ...

wherein one end of the main body along the longitudinal direction coupled to the support portion and corresponding one end of the support portion are formed into round shape, and the first axis is located at substantially the center of the rounded portion,

wherein the end of the rounded portion of the support portion has a slight protrusion and arranged thereon an operation unit that controls displaying data on the display panel,

wherein the operation unit is biased toward the center of the rotatable range, and is returned to the center when released from a finger after being pivoted slightly" (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, the '720 Patent relates to a foldable portable radio telephone set which can execute communication without an opening/closing operation. A connection part having a turn shaft becomes a shaft at the time of folding and a turn shaft becomes a shaft when a first casing turns in a holding direction as an axis line in a state where the first casing and a second casing are opened is provided between the first casing and the second casing.

As understood by the Applicants, Gray relates to a portable telephone including a pair of chassis sections which are interconnected by a pivot connection about which the chassis sections are rotated between open or closed positions. The pivot connection defines a pivot axis and a plane of rotation which are oriented in angulated relation with both chassis sections so that the chassis sections define a compact configuration when closed and an ergonomic configuration when rotated to the open position. A manually releasable spring urged locking mechanism is provided to lock the chassis sections against relative rotation at both the open and closed positions. A torsion spring is provided to partially open or partially close the chassis sections

upon manual unlocking thereof and to permit free rotation during predetermined relative pivotal movement of the chassis sections.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references teach or suggest the above identified feature of claim 1. Specifically neither the '720 Patent nor Gray, considered either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a portable display apparatus comprising a main body substantially in the form of a rectangular solid and having a main surface, and a cover that has one surface facing the main body and having substantially the same dimensions as those of the main surface of the main body, wherein the cover has a support portion and a display portion arranged along a longitudinal direction thereof, and the support portion is coupled to the main body such that the support portion is pivotable around a first axis, the first axis being perpendicular to the main surface of the main body, and the display portion has arranged thereon a display panel facing the main body, and is coupled to the support portion such that the display portion is pivotable around a second axis, the second axis being perpendicular to the first axis, wherein the second axis is along a longitudinal edge of the support portion, and the display portion is rotatable separate from the support portion around the second axis, as recited in independent claim 1. Applicants further submit that the combination fails to disclose or suggest wherein one end of the main body along the longitudinal direction coupled to the support portion and corresponding one end of the support portion are formed into round shape, and the first axis is located at substantially the center of the rounded portion, wherein the end of the rounded portion of the support portion has a slight protrusion and arranged thereon an operation unit that controls displaying data on the display panel, wherein the operation unit is biased toward the center of the rotatable range, and is returned to the center when released from a finger after being pivoted slightly, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over the '720 Patent and Gray, considered either alone or in combination.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

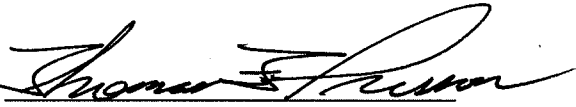
In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be
required to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By: 

Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
Tel. (212) 588-0800
Fax: (212) 588-0500